Start of Gustav Brand Collection

AR 11704

AR 11704 1/1 Gustav Brand Collection, undated 1928-2003

Gustav Brand family Collection (AHC 2838)

(the following items are all copies if not indicated otherwise)

1 AHC QII

2 One sheet with photos, including: one photo of the Brandstaetter family, one photo of the Schlesinger family, one photo of GB in 1928 at the Theseustemple in Volksgarten, Vienna, one phot of GB at the same place in 1990(all of them are originals)

3 One sheet with photos, including: GB standing in the Temple of Seitenstaettengasse, Vienna, one photo of the Schlesinger family 1923, one photo of GB's daughter in Vienna in 1990 (all of them are originals)

2838

THE AUSTRIAN HERITAGE COLLECTION AT THE LEO BAECK INSTITUTE

AUSTRIAN-JEWISH IMMIGRANTS IN THE USA

LEO BAECK INSTITUTE: 15 WEST 16TH STREET, 4TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10011, TEL (212) 744 - 6400

We kindly ask you to answer the following questions in as much detail as possible, either in English or in German. If you need more space, please feel free to use additional sheets. If you don't know the answer to certain questions or don't want to answer for any reason, just go on to the next question.

NAME: GUSTAV BRAND FORMERLY "BRANDSTÄTTER" **DATE:** JULY 21, '03

1. BEFORE MARCH 1938

1.1 Please describe your parental home.

(Did you live in an apartment or in a house? How many people lived there with you? Did you have servants? What language(s) were spoken in the household?)

APARTMENT – 3 PEOPLE - MOTHER, FATHER & ME.
NO - WE NEVER HAD SERVANTS
WE SPOKE GERMAN ONLY.

1.2 Please tell us about your neighborhood (District in Vienna or area).

(What ethnic groups lived there? Religious life? Relationships between Jews and non-Jews? Relationships with neighbors?)

WE LIVED IN 'NEUBAU' <VII BEZIRK> MOST OF THE TIME.
WE ALWAYS GOT ALONG WITH NEIGHBORS – BOTH JEWS & NON-JEWS.

1.3 What religious tradition existed in your family?
(Did you keep kosher, go to synagogue, observe holidays, etc.?)

MY MOTHER KEPT KOSHER —
WE OBSERVED MAJOR HOLIDAYS —
WENT TO SYNAGOGUE ON SPECIAL (MAJOR)
HOLIDAYS.

1.4 Please, tell us about your friends and acquaintances ?
(Were they mostly Jewish or non-Jewish? Did you have any close non-Jewish friends?)

I HAD BOTH - JEWISH & NON-JEWISH FRIENDS

1.5 Were you affiliated with any political, social or religious organization?
(Youth Organizations, Zionist Organizations, Political Parties, other organizations)
If so, did you have any specific function?

NO - NEVER

1.6 Did you or your family encounter any anti-Semitism in Austria before March 1938?
(If so, please give details.)

I WAS TO YOUNG

1.7 What was your/ your family's reaction to Hitler's rise to power in Germany in 1933 and to Nazi activity in Austria in the early thirties? Did you/ they feel threatened by these events?

I WAS TO YOUNG TO
FULLY UNDERSTAND

2. FROM MARCH 1938 TO EMIGRATION - FROM EUROPE TO AMERICA

2.1 How was your time spent during and after the "Anschluss"?
What was the impact of the "Anschluss" on you personally?
(Were you expelled from school/university? Did you or somebody in your family lose your/ their jobs? Were your apartments/houses looted? Were you (or members of your family) persecuted? Were you/ they forced to scrub the streets?)

WE MOVED IN WITH MY GRANDMOTHER.
AND LIVED WITH HER FOR A VERY SHORT TIME.

2.2 How did non-Jewish friends, colleagues, schoolmates, neighbors, etc. behave toward you and your family?

INDIFFERENTLY
SOME WERE FRIENDLY — OTHERS NOT...

2.3 Could you please decribe your recollections of November 9th, 1938, the so-called „Reichs-Kristallnacht“ (in case you still were in Austria at that time)

LEFT BEFORE THAT DATE

2.4 Were you or any members of your family arrested? Sent to a camp?
(If so, please give details.)

NO

2.5 Can you recall the process of obtaining papers necessary for emigration?
(Did you try to obtain visas for other countries as well? Were you supported by any relief organization, by relatives or friends?)

MY FATHER HAD A SISTER HERE IN THE U.S.
SHE WAS HIS 'SPONSOR' – THAT'S HOW HE
WAS ABLE TO COME TO AMERICA.
MY MOTHER AND I FOLLOWED HIM SHORTLY.

2.6 **What happened to your (or your family's) apartments, houses, businesses and other property?**

I DO NOT REMEMBER

2.7 **When did you leave Austria?** (Please indicate exact date, if possible)

IN JUNE OF 1938

2.8 **If you did not emigrate directly to the U.S, where did you go first?**
(How long did you stay there? Can you give a brief description of your experiences? Was there an immedate reason - apart from the general threat - for your emigration?)

DIRECTLY TO U.S.

3. THE UNITED STATES

3.1 When did you arrive in the U.S.? (Please indicate exact date, if possible)

JUNE 1938

3.2 Did members of your family emigrate to countries other than the U.S.?
(If so, where? Where do they live today? Are you still in contact with them?)

YES —

SOME RELATIVES WENT TO

1) AUSTRALIA

2) CANADA

3) TRINIDAD

THEY ALL DIED — EXCEPT 4 OR 5 COUSINS.

3.3 Did you serve in the U.S. Armed Forces or in any other allied army?
(If so, when did you join? What division? What was your area of operation? When were you discharged?)

YES - FROM APRIL 1943
TO APRIL 1946

I SERVED IN THE U.S. — I DID NOT GO OVERSEAS.

3.4 Please list places and dates of residence in the U.S.
(City, State; in bigger cities, neighborhood)

MY FAMILY AND I SETTLED ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE.
AFTER MANY YEARS WE MOVED TO BROOKLYN

3.5 Please describe your occupational situation after your arrival in the U.S.

I WENT TO PUBLIC SCHOOL AND AFTER THAT TO HIGH SCHOOL.
I STARTED WORKING AT VARIOUS OCCUPATIONS AT AGE 17.

3.6 Did you belong to any emigrant/immigrant-related organization or cultural association? (e.g. Austrian American Federation, Austrian Forum, etc.? If so, since when?)

NO - NEVER

3.7 **Do you still speak German in the USA? If so, with whom and when? How often?**

HARDLY EVER

3.8 **Would you call yourself religious? To what degree? What is your affiliation? Did it change?**
(Do you keep kosher, go to synagogue, observe the holidays,...?)

NOT VERY RELIGIOUS —

I DO GO TO SYNAGOGUE ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS.

3.9 **Were your friends and acquaintances mostly German-speaking or non-German-speaking? Mainly Jewish or not?**

MOSTLY JEWISH - NON GERMAN SPEAKING

3.10 **Of what country (countries) are you a citizen? When was each citizenship granted?**

U.S. - SINCE 1945

3.11 Have you ever visited Austria after the war? If so, how often?
(What did you do there? Can you recall some of your impressions during these visits? Have you ever thought of going back permanently?)

YES - I WAS IN VIENNA AND IN SALZBURG IN 1990 -

I WENT WITH MY DAUGHTER -

I WILL NOT GO BACK PERMANENTLY

IN VIENNA I REMEMBERED MANY THINGS, PLACES, ETC.

4. PARTICIPATION IN OTHER ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS

4.1 Have you ever been interviewed by any other organization?
(If yes, please indicate when and by which organization?)

NO

4.2 Have you ever been mentioned in any historical works?
(Holocaust-related literature, Documentary films, Exhibitions etc.)

NO

5. FAMILY MEMBERS

5.1 Spouse (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

I WAS MARRIED IN 1964 –
MY WIFE DIED IN N.Y IN 1989
SHE WAS A MEDICAL SECRETARY

5.2 Mother (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

FRIEDA BRANDSTÄTTER – BORN VIENNA CIRCA 1895
BORN SCHLESINGER
DIED 1976 (?)

5.3 Father (Name, Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

SIGMUND BRANDSTATTER BORN CIRCA 1890
SHOEMAKER
DIED IN N.Y 1967 (?)

5.4 Siblings (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

I HAVE NO SISTER/BROTHER.
I HAVE ONE DAUGHTER – BORN 1969
SHE IS MARRIED – LIVES IN LONG ISLAND –
AND HAS 2 CHILDREN – A BOY AND A GIRL.

5.5 Children (Name, Maiden Name, Address [City, State, Country], Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

AS STATED IN 5.4

ONE DAUGHTER – I HAVE NO BROTHER

NO SISTER

5.6 Grandparents (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth, place/date of death, Occupation[s])

MY GRANDPARENTS ALL LIVED

IN VIENNA.

THEY DIED LONG AGO –

I HAVE NO DETAILS ABOUT THEIR LIVES.

The Austrian Heritage Collection is always looking for people to interview.

If you know any Austrian-Jewish immigrants in the US who might be interested in participating in this project, please either ask them to contact us or write their addresses below.

Thank you very much for participating in this project.



Brandstätter Family
Boy is Sigmund
Brandstätter



Schlesinger Family
Girl sitting is Frieda
Brändstätter neé
Schlesinger



Schlesinger Family, 1923
Baby is Gustav Brand



Lanner

20/1928

Strec.
11235

PHO ... LER, WIEN I. VOLKSGARTEN.
... EN XIV. FELBERSTR. 60.



Vienna, 1990
Gustav Brand's
daughter



Vienna Volksgarten

June 1990



Vienna 1990

Temple where Gustav Brand had his bar mitzvah in 1936

Seitenstetten Gasse

End of Gustav Brand Collection